Puerto Rico and Federal Partners Unite to Address Power Restoration Needs

Release Date: October 17, 2017

Over the next several months, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of Energy, and private industry will unite to restore emergency power to Puerto Rico's electric grid, which was heavily damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Currently, only 14 percent of Puerto Rico has electricity.

PREPA and federal partners have four primary goals: to provide temporary emergency power and spot generation for critical facilities like hospitals, shelters, and schools; ensuring the adequate generation of power to the power plants and water pumping stations; and to ultimately rebuild permanent transmission lines across Puerto Rico and distribution lines to businesses and residential areas.

USACE recently awarded a $35.1 million contract to Weston Solutions for two generators that will provide a combined 50 MW of temporary power stability to the San Juan metropolitan area. The generators arrived on October 13 and are being installed at the Palo Seco power plant in San Juan, with a projected operation date of October 25. USACE also awarded a $240 million contract to Fluor Corporation for personnel and equipment needed to augment current restoration activities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded Puerto Rico $336.2 million in Public Assistance funding to assist in the emergency work and debris removal to aid the power restoration effort.

Federal Partners are actively assessing critical facilities such as hospitals, shelters, and schools. To date, USACE has completed more than 460 generator assessments, 359 generator inspections, 106 temporary generator installations, and are in the process of installing an additional 36 temporary generators.

In addition, USACE placed an initial $115 million order for supplies and materials that includes more than 50 thousand poles, which are a mixture of concrete,

galvanized steel and wood, and 6,500 miles of cable that will be used for power transmission and distribution.

Puerto Rico has 2,400 miles of transmission lines and 30,000 miles of distribution lines with 300 sub-stations across the island. An estimated 80 percent of the power grid was damaged during hurricanes Irma and Maria. Many challenges arise in the reinstallation and repair of transmission lines, including inclimate weather, mountainous terrain, unstable ground, and road closures.

###

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at ***800-621-3362*** *(voice,* ***711/VRS*** *- Video Relay Service). (TTY:* ***800-462-7585)****. Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).*

Join the conversation with FEMA on social media. Follow us at:

www.fema.gov/hurricane-maria

www.facebook.com/femapuertorico

www.twitter.com/femaregion2

Get updated information and help us tell your story. The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.